3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

648 about 457,500 inhabitants, although according to the Peace Treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia of July 12, 1920, Lithuania should have regained 12,448 square miles. Lithuania's industry was partly compensated for the loss of Klaipeda. But the industry in the Vilnius territory is not nearly as developed as that in the Klaipeda region. According to the approximate statistics there are in that part of the Vilnius territory which was returned to Lithuania 159 industrial establishments with 5,900 employees. Also, the agricultural standard in this region is substantially below that in other sections of Lithuania. As a step toward improving agricultural and social conditions, the government of Lithuania was about to put into effect its land reform act of 1922, but the Soviet occupation in June, 1940, interrupted this work.

• 725 The next blow to the country's fortunes came as a result of the sudden outbreak of war between Germany and Soviet Russia on June 22, 1941. On the following day, Lithuanian patriots arose in rebellion against Bolshevik terrorism and the institution of mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia; they were successful enough to drive the Bolsheviks from Kaunas, Vilnius, and other Lithuanian cities. The Lithuanians set up at once a provisional government. But soon the Germans, in pursuit of the retreating Red Army, overran all of Lithuania, dissolved the Lithuanian government, and by autocratic decrees began to shape their economy more to the Nazi-prescribed pattern of "the new order."

000 As the year 1941 drew to a close, all freedom of action in Lithuania—political, social, and economic—was still suspended. The nation is fully conscious that her future holds another struggle for independence and for a new reconstruction. Lithuania, like many other small nations through-

1:Anonymous U-3 (no date)1949 RB5 Lithuanians RB5
p. 8

Field Dinner in honor of the graduating class of Guerrilla Officers School, Tauras Area in Lithuania.

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—repeating his call to smash the underground, the reactionary clergy, etc. One need not be a prophet to predict that boasts of "liquidation" and threats, repeatedly made since 1945, will be reiterated for an indefinite time in the future.

Liberation Movement

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Armed and passive resistance will continue until the liberation of the country—or extinction of the Lithuanian People.

The Supreme Lithuanian Committee of Liberation (*VLIK*) is regarded as the country's supreme *political* representative, and its delegation abroad is acknowledged as the Government-in-Exile. It is a coalition of all democratic non-Communist parties and combat organizations.

The actual *resistance* is coordinated inside the country by a non-partisan *BDPS*—the United Democratic Resistance Movement. Its armed forces, called FREEDOM FIGHTERS, are directed by the *VGPS*—the Supreme Command of the Armed Guerrilla Forces.

The objectives are: to counteract the bolshevik spy network; to defend and protect the inhabitants from robberies and murders; to prevent the colonization of the country by foreigners; to curb collectivization and moral lapses; to prevent the wasteful destruction of the forests and other national resources; to keep the population informed of international developments through a press network; to shelter persons passing into outlaw status; to preserve the nation's manpower and traditions of a cultural, political and national entity. In general—the aspiration is to regain state sovereignty under a democratic system, with Lithuania a member of the European Continental Commonwealth and in friendship wtih neighboring countries, including Russia. The main objective is—SURVIVAL OF THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE. Other objectives flow therefrom.

Resistance tactics constantly change in accordance with the methods and degree of oppression by the Soviet occupant. The country is divided into Areas, and resistance members themselves know but one or two other members. The BDPS Praesidium is formed on the principle of efficiency and personal qualifications, rather than representation of various political ideologies. Force today is applied on rare occasions, whenever its use as a terrorist shock action is justified, for instance, attack on the armed convoys and trains transporting deportees.

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Trainees of the Guerrilla Officers School returning to their camp after field training—Tauras Area in Lithuania.

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Large-scale battles are no longer fought—they proved too costly. The Russians claimed to have "liquidated 12,000 bandits" since 1944 and estimate the present forces of the "bandits" at 40,000. The Lithuanian underground concedes considerably greater battle casualties—in excess of 20,000—and estimates the Russian battle casualties at 180,000. This seeming disproportion in battle losses is explained by the fact that the Lithuanians are on the defensive, they strike from ambush in coldly calculated shock actions, strike a swift blow and retire,—while the Russians storm blindly in massed ranks. There is a case of a former guerrilla unit commander who, after the murder of his entire family and the destruction of his farm by the punitive detachments, enlisted with the guerrillas and accounted for 283 assorted Russians prior to his escape westward.

Unfortunately, armed action is followed by reprisals by Soviet punitive detachments which rage for weeks around the scene of a clash—while the guerrilla unit is far from the place by that time. The havoc caused by Soviet punitive hordes is so great that, despite the insufferable treatment at the hands of the occupant, the Liberation Movement strives to reduce employment of arms to an unavoidable minimum.

Uniformed armed units are maintained in the field but are used as a policing force. The guerrillas—men and women "outlaws" who cannot go back to their homes—are under orders to destroy themselves in an extremity and to take pains to mutilate their faces in death, lest their families and acquaintances should suffer. Consequently, the last hand grenade is reserved for suicidal use: the grenade is placed in the mouth and exploded. Faces of battle casualties are mutilated by comrades of the fallen Freedom Fighters when clandestine burial is made impossible. Some 8,000 men and women met death in suicidal fashion.

In 1947, a group of 8 Freedom Fighters making their way on a mission to Poland, were traced to a dugout by MVD dogs. According to Russian prisoners taken later by the guerrillas, the MVD troops showered grenades and mortar fire around the dugout. When a hole was finally pierced, solemn singing came from inside, followed by a series of explosions: all 8 men had blown themselves to eternity.

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625 operates on the Gediminas Street in Vilnius, and nearly 30% of its cadets are Lithuanians. Small tank and reconnaissance planes are at the disposal of the MVD and MGB forces.

The People's Militia is part of the MVD, and most of the Lithuanian personnel is found there. The *"Istrebiteli"* ("Exterminators") are a part of the MGB. The "Istrebiteli" were devised in the spring of 1945 to combat "political bandits." Guerrilla activities were widespread at the time, and the Russians attempted to enlist about 30 native "Istrebiteli" in each township. All sorts of inducements and privileges were offered, including exemption from draft. Native Russians, gypsies and Polish-speaking city vagrants enlisted, as well as some Lithuanian youths anxious to escape the draft. The guerrillas, through the underground press and through their relatives, waged a very strenuous campaign against the "Istrebiteli." Recruits were ambushed and killed. Their ranks were depleted in skirmishes, when untrained raw recruits faced the veteran guerrillas. After each skirmish, the guerrillas circulated mimeographed appeals to "brothers," urging the "Stribs" to abandon the enemy and either join the guerrilla forces or seek a legal status somewhere in the country, rather than aid the oppressor in destroying their own people. This campaign was successful: few Lithuanians enlisted and the recruits deserted.

725 625 The Russians used the "Stribs" in collecting compulsory grain quotas and taxes, and these functions made them universally hated. The inhabitants slyly derided the "Stribs" and *"Stribikauliai"* (deformed hips), etc., just as they referred to the "great" comrade Suslov as *"Sušlava"* (trash sweepings). The "Stribs," receiving weapons but no uniforms nor food from the government, followed the example of the Russian tutors and engaged in wholesale robberies, murders and thefts. Farmers in no way connected with the resistance defended themselves with axes and scythes.

Such "living standards" rapidly depleted the once formidable force. In most places, only 2 or 3 "Stribs" survived in individual townships. These were finally incorporated in the uniformed MGB units. Township contingents were complemented by Russian aliens, a dozen to several dozen men in each township. Reserve units of the "Stribs" are stationed in county seats. These "operational MGB aktivs" roam the countryside night and day. They search homes, collect taxes, grain quotas, seek the hiding places of the guerrillas, detain people, and shoot suspects on sight—capital punishment was "abolished" in Russia. . . .

Frontier Corps units are stationed along the heavily guarded and fortified Polish frontier, and on the seacoast. MVD railroad units guard railroad stations and depots and check passengers' papers on trains. Combined MGB-MVD patrols (jeeps, armored cars, armored motorcycles, and tanks) control the main highways, especially at night.

War Psychosis

723 722 Preparations for war are in evidence everywhere. New airfields are constructed, old fields are expanded and modernized. Armored units, air squadrons and artillery are constantly in transit. Closely guarded military trains travel by night. The populace is kept in a state of nervous war tension—probably to provoke

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661 them, like the 60-year old farmer J. Kaminskas from Oldenburg, were "detoured" to Siberia. Several other
474 families were forcibly repatriated by the Russians from Pomerania—and were executed by the local authorities when they reached their homes. Having identified the former refugees, the Russians at once retaliated against their relatives. Thus, in Sudavia, Rev. Degutis of Virbalis, Rev. Zdanavičius, Rev. Drazdys, township clerk Bieliauskas of Pajevonys, Stasys Aleksa from Jakilkiai, Jonas Micuta from Kunigilkiai were executed. In distant Samagitia, Antanas Ambrozaitis, Antanas Bieliauskas and several other men were exiled to Siberia from Kretinga and their *wives were forced to re-marry*. Similar events have taken place elsewhere.

668 The guerrilla commanders felt obliged to retaliate.
725 On learning that Eugenija Kubiliūtė of Pajevónys had been responsible for some of the Russian-conducted massacres, the guerrillas attacked Pajevonys, found the girl inside the Pajevonys township office, tied her and burned down the structure with the traitor girl inside. The same night the MVD-militia outpost was attacked and destroyed. In the northwest, the guerrillas simultaneously occupied several towns and killed all the communists. Other units invaded the Klaipėda District and seized a Russian arsenal at Šilutė-Heidekrug, including tanks and artillery pieces. Several battalions of the regular Soviet Army sent to combat the guerrillas unexpectedly passed over to the enemy. . . . If there was "insurrection," that was by the regular armed forces of Russia. MVD-MGB troops were moved in and light bombers were summoned to bomb the "bandits" who retreated to the forests. As Russian reinforcements rushed to Pajevonys, a Russian munitions dump exploded. . . .

Then followed the "operation" of May 1948.

Genocide in Operation

474 Rural authorities were instructed to urge the dis-
661 possessed farmers to file applications for land allotments. Of course, none of these instructions were printed in the press. Local officials were instructed to stress that the Soviet regime wanted to endow everyone with land. When petitions were turned in, the officials informed the petitioners that land was allotted to them "in another township" and they must report to certain transportation points. When the farmers and their families, bearing their few worldly possessions arrived at the appointed places, they were encircled by MVD troops, driven to railroad depots and placed on board freight cars bound for Siberia. Conservative estimates placed the number of people deported in this despicable manner at more than 100,000.

Letters began arriving from the deportees telling about the numerous deaths while in transit. People trembled as they listened to threats made by countless agitators. Agricultural work was done listlessly. Fields were neglected. More and more failures to meet taxes and grain delivery quotas were reported in the press, announcing "temporary exile into friendly republics" of the "kulak saboteurs." People became resigned and agreed to go into kolkhozes.

668 The Lithuanian is passionately fond of his soil. How could he leave all his precious belongings and animals to the profane Russians to debase? No: he would rather burn down everything. . . .